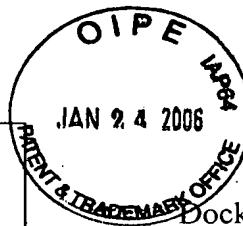


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: January 18, 2006

Signature: _____

Matthias Abrell
(Matthias Abrell)



Docket No.: 29617/SH001
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Neville E. Andrews et al.

Application No.: 10/753,264

Confirmation No.: 6706

Filed: January 7, 2004

Art Unit: 3682

For: ADVANCING/RETRACTING MECHANISM

Examiner: Colby M. Hansen

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated October 18, 2005, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.